

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 02787 220757 Z

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ACTION EUR-25

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TAGS: PFOR SP XM OAS

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL VISIT TO SPAIN OF OAS SECRETARY GENERAL

1. PRIOR TO ATTENDING CONFERENCE OF LA DEVELOPMENT PLANNING MINISTERS, SCHEDULED FOR MAY 21 - 25, OAS SEC GEN GALO PLAZA LASSO WAS RECEIVED ON OFFICIAL VISIT TO SPAIN MAY 17 AND 18. HIS ACTIVITIES, AS DETAILED IN A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON COMPLETION VISIT, WERE AS FOLLOWS: SR. PLAZA LASSO WAS RECEIVED BY CHIEF OF STATE AND PRINCE OF SPAIN. HE ALSO CALLED ON VICE PRESIDENT AND HAD TALKS WITH MINISTERS OF LABOR, PUBLIC WORKS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING. DURING A MEETING HELD AT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DURING A WORKING LUNCHEON OFFERED BY FOREIGN UNDERSECRETARY AT INSTITUTE OF HISPANIC CULTURE, PLANS OF TECHNICAL AND CULTURAL COOPERATION BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE OAS SECRETARIAT GENERAL WERE REVIEWED IN DETAIL, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF INCREASING THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WHICH SPAIN PROVIDES LATIN AMERICA THROUGH THIS CHANNEL. THE FOREIGN MINISTER OFFERED A LUNCHEON ATTENDED BY AMBASSADORS OF THE OAS MEMBER COUNTRIES, IN HONOR OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE LATTER IN TURN OFFERED A DINNER AT HIS HOTEL. DURING HIS VIST TO SPAIN, SR. PLAZA WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE OAS SUB-SECRETARY OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION, DON JAOA GONCALVES DE SOUZA, BY THE OAS REPRESENTATIVE IN EUROPE, DON GERARDO SCHAMIS, AND BY AN OFFICIAL OF THIS REPRESENTATION, DON UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MADRID 02787 220757 Z

ENRIQUE HURTADO DE MENDOZA. ON THE SPANISH SIDE, BESIDES REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MFA AND THE SPANISH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE OAS, PARTICIPANTS IN THESE MEETINGS INCLUDED THE DIRECTORS AND OFFICIALS OF OTHER MINISTRIES CHARGED WITH PROGRAMS IN WHICH RECIPIENTS OF SCHOLARSHIPS AND PROFESSIONALS SENT TO SPAIN BY THE OAS COMPLETE THEIR TRAINING.

2. ON ARRIVAL MAY 17, PLAZA LASSO TOLD PRESS HE FIRMLY BELIEVED LA SHOULD PROMOTE ITS RELATIONS WITH SPAIN AND THAT LA COUNTRIES DID NOT WISH TO CLOISTER THEMSELVES IN THE AMERICAN CONTINENT BY A RELATIONSHIP SOLELY WITH THE US BUT WANTED CLOSE RELATIONS WITH EUROPE AND OTHER POWERS. ASKED WHETHER THE OAS WAS DEPENDENT ON THE US, PLAZA STATED THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE CASE MANY YEARS AGO BUT WAS NOT NOW SINCE ALL THE OAS MEMBERS WERE SOVEREIGN NATIONS. AS FOR THE ROLE OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, PLAZA AGREED WITH A QUESTIONER THAT THEY WERE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN LA DEVELOPMENT SINCE FOREIGN CAPITAL AND COLLABORATION PERMITTED THINGS TO BE DONE FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD BE DIFFICULT OR LESS POSSIBLE WITH NATIONAL ENTERPRISE.

3. IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPER ARRIBA MAY 19, PLAZA REVEALED THAT AT HIS MEETINGS HERE, SPANISH HAD AGREED TO ESTABLISH A FUND DEVOTED ESPECIALLY TO TECHNICAL COOPERATION, A MECHANISM HE HOPED WOULD BE ADOPTED BY OTHER COUNTRIES COOPERATING WITH THE OAS FROM OUTSIDE THE CONTINENT. THE FUND WOULD NOT INVOLVE ANY RIGID CONDITIONS FOR THE OAS MEMBERS OR ANY PERCENTAGE LIMITATION FOR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS. QUESTIONED RE DIFFICULTIES IN WAY OF UNITING AMERICA, PLAZA NOTED THAT THERE WAS NO TRADITION IN LA, AS IN EUROPE, FOR CREATING COMMON MARKET, TRADE RELATIONS WERE ORIENTED TOWARD EUROPE RATHER THAN WITHIN LA, THE DOMINANT SECTOR WAS AGRICULTURE WHICH WAS THE MOST DIFFICULT TO INTEGRATE, AND THERE WERE DEFICIENCIES IN COMMUNICATION AND GREAT DISPARITIES IN LEVELS OF DEVELOPMENT. ASKED FOR HIS POSITION ON INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL " INVADING" AMERICA, PLAZA REPLIED THAT FOREIGN CAPITAL HAD TO SUBMIT TO RULES OF " FAIR PLAY". IT WAS ACCEPTED BECAUSE TODAY THERE WAS NO CASE OF GREAT ECONOMIC UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 MADRID 02787 220757 Z

DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT ITS CONTRIBUTION, BUT SUCH CAPITAL HAD NO INTEREST FOR LATIN AMERICANS IF IT DID NOT (HELP) RESOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS OR IF MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES INTERFERED IN THEIR POLICY. RE: THE ROLE OF THE U. S., PLAZA STATED: " WE HAVE THE GOOD FORTUNE TO COUNT ON THIS NATION IN OUR CONTINENT. NO ONE HAS SO FAR POSED THE IDEA OF EXCLUDING THE U. S. FROM THE ORGANIZATION".

4. COMMENT: OAS SECRETARY GENERAL' S OFFICIAL VISIT, WITH ITS FULL PROGRAM, CEREMONY AND PROMINENT PRESS COVERAGE, WAS PART OF GOS CAMPAIGN TO STRENGTHEN ITS RELATIONS WITH LA THROUGH CONCEPT OF HISPANIDAD AND ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. IN A SENSE, IT WAS A SEQUEL TO FOREIGN MINISTER LOPEZ BRAVO' S VISITS TO 17 COUNTRIES OF LA, IN 1971, DURING WHICH HE SIGNED NUMEROUS BILATERAL COMMERCIAL AND TECHNICAL ACCORDS. SINCE THIS SERIES OF VISITS, IT IS KNOWN THAT THE MFA HAS BEEN CONSIDERING PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE SPANISH COMMITMENTS MADE DURING THE VISITS (MADRID A-70 OF MARCH 18, 1972). WHETHER THE SPANISH FUND FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH LA DISCLOSED BY PLAZA LASSO IS AN ASPECT OF SUCH PLANS OR IS SOMETHING IN ADDITION AND WHETHER THERE WERE OTHER CONCRETE RESULTS OF THE VISIT REMAIN TO BE DETERMINED. THE EMPHASIS GIVEN BY THE GOS TO THE VISIT ALSO REFLECTS ITS INCREASING DISPOSITION TO CONSIDER SPAIN AS A POWER WITH GLOBAL INTERESTS AS INDICATED IN THE FOREIGN MINISTER' S STATEMENT TO THE CORTES FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (MADRID 2711). AT THE SAME TIME, AT THE LUNCHEON IN HIS HONOR, THE REMARKS OF PLAZA LASSO, REPORTED SEPARATELY, SERVED TO REINFORCE THE IMAGE THAT THE GOS SEEKS TO PROJECT SPAIN AS A COUNTRY WHOSE REMARKABLE ECONOMIC PROGRESS CAN SERVE AS A MODEL FOR OTHER COUNTRIES IN A COMPARABLE STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT.
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